

AMIS, KINGSLEY WILLIAM

PF293,244

SEE ALSO LIST INSIDE COVER

Serial No	Star Designation	Date	Serial No	Star Designation	Date	Serial No	Star Designation	Date
Kv2			14399					

S. 960 Edn2

S. 960 Edn2

PF293,244

Register No.

Minute Sheet No.

5.

Observation never opened. 21 Army Group.
N.Q. P.D.C. on present information.

F.2.a./LMG.
19.12.44.

W. J. [unclear]

13.5.45.

Up to date summary of AMIS' case.

5a

17.

AMIS' case dropped. Released from the Army. (see 16a.)

F.2.a./LMG.
3. 11. 45.

W. J. [unclear]

MINUTE SHEETReference I.F. 293,244

Previous serials not minuted

	11	
4.4.49	From O.C. Hatfield re AMIS	11a
	12	
22.4.49	From O.C. Oxford re AMIS	12a
	13.	
14.4.55.		13a
	14.	
21.4.55.		14a.
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12.4.55.	Vetting enquiry from Foreign Office.	15a.
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28.4.55	F.3 summary of information	16a
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4.5.55.	Letter to Foreign Office.	17a.
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	22	
21.7.55	To M. I. 6.	22a

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IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958

January 2016

[OVER]

	22.	
7.6.55 From C.C. Swansea.		22a
	23.	
5.4.56. Ext from Party Piece.		23z
29.5.56. From CC. Swansea.		23a
	24	
11.2.57. Cutting from Daily Worker.		24a.
	25.	
12.2.57. Cutting from Daily Worker		25a.
14.2.57. Cutting from the Daily Worker.		25b.
	26.	
20.2.57. From C.C. Swansea		26a
	27.	
20.2.57. Cutting from the Daily Worker.		27a.
	28.	
15.8.57 From Foreign Office		28a
	29.	
21.8.57. Draft reply to Foreign Office.		29a

Reference P.F. 293, 244.

30.

~~E.1.~~ Cancelled.
D.H. 28/9/57.

As AMIS is back in this country, you will want to remove his name from the contact sheet of S.F.497/Portugal.

M.M. Hodgson

C.3.
23 August, 1957.

31.

13.8.57. To Foreign Office.

31a

32.

20.11.57. U.S. Employment check

32a

33.

27. 1.57. To U.S. Embassy.

33a

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ACT 1958 JANUARY 2016

34.

~~D.G.~~

_____ came to see me today about this case.

AMIS was the subject of the U.S. employment vetting enquiry at 32a, in November last year. There is good evidence that he was a member of the Communist Party when an undergraduate at Oxford in 1942, and C.3 replied accordingly to the U.S. enquiry as at 33a.

_____ explained that AMIS had subsequently applied for a long term visitor's visa to the United States, in order to take up a job as lecturer at Princeton for a period of about one year. Since the U.S. Consulate was already in possession of the information at 33a, which had not been regarded as adverse for the purpose

/.....

Minute 34 contd.

of AMIS' employment, no vetting enquiry was made in connexion with the visa application. The visa was then granted, despite the report of early membership of the Communist Party. This, according to [redacted] was due to mistaken action by an inexperienced Consular official.

The error has now been discovered by the Consulate, and in the light of 33a, the Consulate is now bound to make an official representation to the Department of Justice, in order to obtain official authority for the visa to remain valid.

[redacted] considers that the chances of this representation being successful are rather more than 98%. Before it is made, however, it will be necessary for the Consulate to reinterview AMIS, with particular reference to his signed affidavit to the effect that he has never been a member of the Communist Party. They will do this on the basis of published press material only - and in particular AMIS' denial (in the "Daily Worker" of 14th February 1957) of Marxist sympathies (25b).

I pointed out to [redacted] that, should it be finally decided that AMIS is not after all to be granted a visa, he is very likely indeed to make a public protest, especially since he wishes to travel with his wife and family in about three weeks' time. Although his protest could logically only be directed against the U.S. authorities, and could not involve this Service or its sources directly, I was sure that [redacted] would agree with me that neither of us wanted any public protest if it could be avoided. He agreed.

In conclusion, I said that I could see no objection to the course of action proposed, provided that the interview with AMIS is based on nothing but published newspaper material. Tweedy confirmed that this would be so.

I thanked him for keeping us informed.

C.
8.8.58.

J.C. Robertson.

35.

9. 12/6
The Americans have told us that they are acting on AMIS' statement in 25b that 'I have experienced the ailment'. We shall have to take shelter behind that if necessary.

D.G.

11.8.58.

Reference..... P.F. 293,244

36.


5.9.58. From the ~~C.~~ American Embassy. 36

You will remember this case, which
discussed with us.

has informed me by telephone that
a Consular officer had had a satisfactory interview
with AMIS and accepted his assurances about his
dissociation from the Party.

AMIS was allowed to travel to the U.S.A.
will confirm this in writing.

C.3.
5.9.58.


H. H. Potter.


37.

~~D.D.G.~~

Please refer to Minute 34.

You may now like to note, from Minute 36,
that the business of AMIS's U.S. visa has been
satisfactorily settled.

C.
9.9.58.


J. C. Robertson.

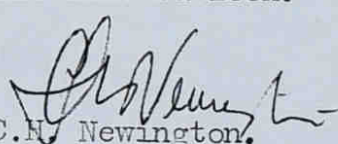
38.

27.1.1961. From the Commonwealth Relations Office. 38a.

F.4/RMS

39.

Before replying to the letter from C.R.O. at 38a, I should
be glad to know whether you have a contact at University College
of Swansea, and if so, whether you would consider approaching
him for his opinion on AMIS' political outlook.


C. H. Newington.

C3A/3
7th February, 1961.

CHN/AR

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ACT 1958 JANUARY 2016.

40.

41

16.2.1961. To Commonwealth Relations Office.

41a

42

4.3.61 Extract from Varsity

42a

43.

19.4.61. Vetting enquiry from Foreign Office on behalf of the British Council.

43a.

44.

20.4.61. To Foreign Office.

44a.

45.

25.8.61. To C.R.O.

46.

45a

10.10.61. From C.R.O.

46a

47

28.12.61 From C.C. Swansea

47a

48

9.1.62. From C.C. Cambridge.

48a

49

14.1.62. Cutting from "The Observer"

49a

Reference..... PF 293,244.....

50

27.12.62.

Cutting from the Times.

50a

51

18.1.63.

From C.C. Cambridge

51a

52.

4.2.63.

From C.C. Cambridge.

52a.

53.

8.3.63.

Cutting from "DAILY HERALD".

53a.

54

9.9.63.

Cutting from the Daily Sketch.

54a

55

13.1.64.

Cutting from the "Yorkshire Post"

55a

56

24.1.64.

Cutting from New Cambridge

56a

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ACT 1958 JANUARY 2016.

57

30.6.65. Cutting from "The Sun"

57a

58

11.5.66 From F.O.

58a

59

17.5.66 To F.O.

59a

60

10.10.66. Copy from P.C.D.

60a

THIS IS A COPY
OF THE ORIGINAL
DOCUMENT UNDER
SECTION 1 OF THE
ACT 1958

PASSPORT CONTROL DEPARTMENT

To M.I.5

FULL NAME OF APPLICANT. SKVORECKY JOSEF & other

7781/66/E1/5th

Jmld

1920

P.C.D. REMARKS

M.I.5 Reply to Home Office (Immigration and Nationality Department)
(Copy to P.C.D.)

FOR: OBSERVATIONS

COPY TO: HOME OFFICE
CAPT. WOODFIELD

FILE NO. SD12/12628

DATE: 10.10.66

REFERENCE:

DATE:

1A 1F 149541

copy to

1F 97.421

228.244

A

LATEST CLEARANCE

Date 14.10.66



5699/8/102

(G.5800)156114/500/9.55/AT&S/690

12/12628 4

FMZ

PCD

PVF Z

PCD 18 TOR 070948Z GRS 71

FROM ROUTINE PRAGUE

BT

PC 4981 OCT 6.

A. UNION OF CZECH WRITERS.

B. JOSEF SKVORECKY BORN 27/9/1924 NACHOD WRITER AND ALFONZ
BEDNAR BORN 13/10/1914 ROZNOVA NEPORADZA WRITER.

C. 10 DAYS.

D. ARNOLD WESKER 27 BISHOPS RD LONDON N 6, KINGSLEY AMIS,
108 MAIDA VALE LONDON W, DORIS LESSING, 60 CHARRINGTON ST, LONDON

1 AND OTHERS BUT NOT WITHIN B C ~~PROGRAMME~~ PROGRAMME.

E. N 74118/497032/64 AND L 05294.

F. DUE 13 OCT.

G. WISH TO TRAVEL END OCT

MICHELL

BT

TPD AT 071003Z CS

P. A. in PF 293,244. AMIS

Orig. in PF 149,541. WESKER

3 Serial 192a Receipt date 10.10.66

40.

CONFIDENTIAL

PERSONAL

NV
VR - D sub
file
1b

59a

936

PF.293.244/C3D/2

17th May, 1966.

Dear Mr. Oliver,

Kingsley AMIS

Please refer to the attached vetting enquiry submitted by you on behalf of the British Council.

2. AMIS has been the subject of similar enquiries from you and of reports from us dated 4th May, 1955 and 26th August, 1957. Your references V.489 and V.489/3 refer.

3. We have nothing to add to the reports mentioned above, and the information contained in them does not in the view of the Security Service provide grounds for denying the candidate employment in a post affording opportunity for subversive activity.

4. May we please be informed of British Council's decision in due course.

Yours sincerely,


B.M. Lovell

S.J.L. Oliver, Esq., C.B.E., M.B.E.,
D.S.O.,
FOREIGN OFFICE

Enc. 1

BML/OWS

CONFIDENTIAL

PERSONAL

[Handwritten signature]
25/5/66
37 MAY 1966
amb
19/5/66

DIPLOMATIC SERVICE (COUNCIL) Previous Ref: CR 1183/22 25.4.62
 CONFIDENTIAL

580
 SP/3

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

Specialist Tour for British Council in E. Europe - Czechoslovakia

Period 5-11th October, 1966

Surname ANIS, Kingsley Mr./Mrs./Miss/or Title* (Delete as required)

Name at Birth if different from above _____

Christian Names Kingsley

Official Address _____

Home Address 108 Maida Vale, London, W.9 Tel. No. _____

Tel. No. _____

Date of Birth 16.4.22

Place of Birth _____

Present occupation Author. Contributor to New Statesman and The Observer

Miss M-L. Bartman
 Specialist Tours
 CZ/360/3
 9.5.66

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Departmental Reference _____

Serial No. _____

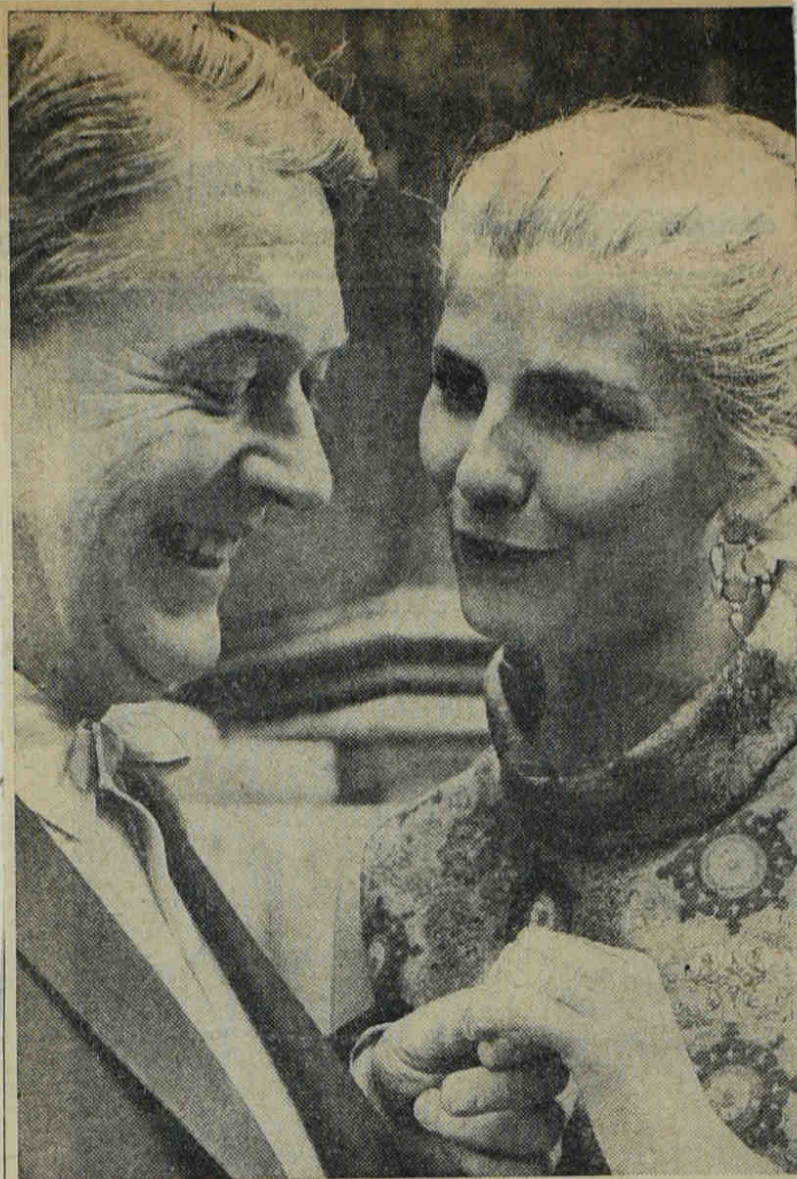
Previous Report _____

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

THE SUN

30 JUN 1965

Date.....



LAUGHTER LINES AS WRITERS WED

By NANCY BANKS-SMITH

KINGSLEY AMIS married Elizabeth Jane Howard yesterday.

I thought he was wearing his Sex Life in Ancient Rome face. But "No," he said, "it's my Mindless Ecstasy face, worn only at weddings."

He is a best-selling novelist. His dambuster 'Lucky Jim' opened the floodgates for a whole new raspberry-blowing generation of writers.

She is a best-looking novelist. Probably the prettiest thing the Book Society ever chose.

Lucky Jim had a trick of pulling faces to fit the occasion. So has 43-year-old Amis. And Jim, too, got the girl in the end.

Sharing a joke . . . the newlyweds, Kingsley Amis and Elizabeth Jane Howard

Late-comer

Their wedding at Marylebone Register Office was Amis's second marriage, her third.

Her daughter, Nicola Asquith, married to the great-grandson of the Asquith, arrived very late and very pregnant for the ceremony.

"Obviously I'm going to be a grandmother for the second time soon," said the 42-year-old bride. And smiled and seemed positively pleased.

She doesn't look anything like a grandmother. Except in a high-cheek-boned Dietrich way.

Once a model and actress . . . still very tall and dramatic . . . with gold near-chandeliers swinging from her ears . . . and what looked like a little hedgehog twined around her finger. It was a very avant-garde wedding ring.

Honeymoon

They got to know each other well at — of all prim-sounding things — a Cheltenham Festival of Literature.

She was organising it and, trying to unprim it, invited him down to give a talk on sex in literature.

They are, more as a joke than a honeymoon, I think, spending three days at Brighton. The mere mention of it doubles Amis up with laughter.

His left eye droops in a permanent wink, which gives him an air of always seeing and sharing a marvellous joke. Which is exactly what he does.

And why it matters that this middle-aged man got married in London yesterday.

F.B. (1701)

F.A. 114

P. Amis
Compw P.F. 293244

req. 5.7.65

BC/ST

9/14/65
7.7.65

Reference... PF. 293,244

56A

Cutting from "New Cambridge", dated Friday, 24th January, 1964.

"Stiff and Spiteful" —Amis hits back at The University

Cambridge is 'stiff, spiteful, compartmentalised, self-regarding,' and, at the undergraduate level, a resort of the upper classes. That is the verdict delivered this week in the transatlantic monthly 'Encounter' by Kingsley Amis.

Amis, novelist and literary critic, came to Peterhouse from Swansea as a junior Fellow in 1961. After two years on the edge of the English School, he left last year because teaching kept him from his writing.

In his five-page article, Amis highlights undergraduates' discontent with the lack of don-student contact.

He says that this was universally and warmly voiced by the students he met, and claims that in Cambridge it needs urgent attention.

He urges that the tutorial system is inadequate. His solution is to move the dons (with their families) back into college, thus giving the college community a chance to realise itself.

But he recognises that this depends on a change of heart among many senior members of the university, who find the company of students distasteful.

Indeed, he himself was widely regarded in Cambridge as a homosexual—apparently because he was sometimes to be seen around the pubs drinking with his pupils. In the provinces this would hardly be noticed.

Amis says he came here expecting intellectual encounters, and found instead that his experience was not academic but social.

He objects strongly to college Feasts: 'active boredom'. 'Cambridge at its most Cantabrigian' — and records his amazement at the lack of intellectual engagement within the English Faculty.

'To my dismay, what I got was talk about intra-Faculty discord and personal quarrels, syllabus changes, the proportion of Firsts to other Classes, the attendance at old Joe Soap's lectures, etc.'

RS
1.2.64

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

23 JAN 1964

Date.....

YORKSHIRE POST

Port-and-Walnuts Dons

KINGSLEY AMIS, novelist and don (at least, until he recently decided that the two were incompatible, and gave up donning) looks back on Cambridge in the latest issue of Encounter. He starts with a modest attack on the Robbins Report, and gives a warning that the country may find itself with a large and unusable surplus of mediocre graduates. He classifies dons into two categories — port-and-walnuts men, and young dons who know a lot, but seldom divulge it. He passes judgment on dinner parties, dismissing them as peculiarly efficient instruments of social torture. Then, via a description of the unhappy superiority of public school education, he gets on to the main theme of his piece. He claims that the basic fault at Cambridge, and the cause of the apathy and lack of direction of many undergraduates, is the minimal contact between teachers and taught. There are a few embarrassed meetings over sherry, but Mr. Amis maintains that the two halves of the University are, to all intents and purposes, segregated. It is better, he suggests, at such modern establishments as the University of Wales.

Exceptions there may be, but Mr. Amis is right. The points of real contact between dons and undergraduates at Cambridge

(and at Oxford, too, for that matter) are pitifully small. This is partly inevitable. Dons have a lot of administrative work to do, a lot of research to do. They are also, as Mr. Amis points out, allowed to marry nowadays, and so have families to think about as well. Mr. Amis's solution is a sensible one, already practised in the United States, and started at Churchill College, Cambridge. He suggests that married dons and their families should live in college. This would cause some difficulties, but the rewards should easily repay the efforts, and the present segregation is thoroughly bad for both sides.

Falling this step, perhaps too radical for a place as traditional as Cambridge, dons might at least try to find time to meet their students informally. Mr. Amis tried, by drinking with his pupils in pubs (he reports that he was considered a homosexual for his pains). But, and this is the irony of the whole article, Mr. Amis himself has now given up trying. The champion of increased contact has fled the battlefield, and lapsed into a state of wistful anger from afar. Nobody can blame him, since the struggle against the port-and-walnuts men has obviously proved unequal. It is, however, sad for all future Cambridge undergraduates that Mr. Amis has revealed himself as a mild-and-bitter man.

F-1A ^{Mon} (JCT)

55a

PF 293244

(Amis)

Nre

3.262
F-1A/1141
27/1/64

Copied to Pt. 810,750 BRANE FIA / ~~1/3~~
FROM THE PRESS SECTION. *man*

54a

SEP 1963
 Date.....

DAILY SKETCH

THE AMIS VIEW FOR MOSCOW -IN ENGLISH-

THE Russian Ministry of Education has published an English-language book "showing Britain as the Britons see it." It includes work by Somerset Maugham, Kingsley Amis and John Braine, and is selling well, says Moscow Radio.

No. 11

MF 293244
 (Amis)

copy to
 MF 810750

(Braine)

for
 2/3/63

Braine
 2/3/63

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

DAILY HERALD

Date.....

53
 PA PF 293244
 - 8 MAR 1965

TURNING POINT

KINGSLEY AMIS

THE novel-reading public would say that Kingsley Amis' turning point came that day in 1954 when his hilarious novel *Lucky Jim* hit the bookstalls and rocketed the young don from the obscurity of a redbrick university into best-selling fame.

Amis himself dismisses *Lucky Jim* as one of "several turning points of a mild nature."

The real one, he insists, is about to take place. His passport records the event in advance. In his old one he described himself as "teacher." His new one shows his profession as "writer."

This summer he gives up his English Fellowship at Peterhouse, Cambridge, for self-chosen exile as a full-time author in Majorca.

Relaxed

Amis, in black corduroy jacket, lounged in the living room of his lived-in Edwardian house and described the burning of his academic boats with the relaxed air of a man who knows he has made the right decision.

"It all began when I went to the United States in 1958 as a guest lecturer at Princeton University. That year changed my whole view of England — and changed me, too.

"Before that I was prepared to rub along with lots of things in England that one tends to take for granted when living here — the public schools, Royalty, the Honours List, the House of Lords...

Protocol

"If I'd gone to New Zealand or Australia it might have been different. It's a matter of getting a way from the British kind of life and seeing how England looks from the outside.

"It was discovering that the whole class set-up isn't — like the weather — something you are stuck with. It was finding out you need not have a society led by precedent and

this Cambridge job. We said we'd try Cambridge. If it wasn't any better, then OUT! Abroad somewhere.

"I had starry-eyed ideas about Cambridge — a hive of intellectual activity and all that. But I found that the blokes who teach English at the other colleges were mostly a stuffy lot. Too much formality and dressing-up. Too much back-biting.

"And it was depressing to find that after the great post-war social revolution only about nine per cent. of the students who get up to Cambridge are of working-class origin."

Decisive

His nine-year-old daughter Sally came into the room and asked if she could have the telly on. "Not unless you can get someone to help you drag it into the next room," he said.

The decisive phase of his turning-point, Amis went on, came when he met Robert Graves, the poet, at

★ The controversial author of *Lucky Jim* talks — in this new Herald series — about a "turning point" in his life... something which is happening NOW.

by TOM BAISTOW

LUCKY JIM IS LEAVING

his home in Majorca last year.

"There he was, writing like mad. No phone. He showed me a shelf of his collected works as long as that" — he pointed to a bookcase running along the wall. "I thought of my own miserable output of seven books..."

Freedom

"Hilly and I haven't travelled a lot, but we instantly liked this place.

"That year in America said 'You must live somewhere other than in England.' Majorca said 'You must live here'."

Output apart, Amis sees the physical move from the rigidities of life in England to the freedom of full-time authorship in the Mediterranean sun as his chance to get rid of the *Lucky Jim* label and tackle a completely different kind of novel.

He has long been irritated because the critics interpreted his famous first novel as a political protest and hung the

P₂

12.5.63

rule
protocol.

"Of course, there are class differences in America, but the truck driver there doesn't feel inferior to the college professor, just different.

Energy

"I would hate to give the idea I'm personally menaced by the British class system. *I'm* all right. But the whole thing is immovable. In America, energy and new ideas have a ready outlet, here not.

"Hilly [*his wife*] and I came back to University College, Swansea, rather unsettled. Then up came

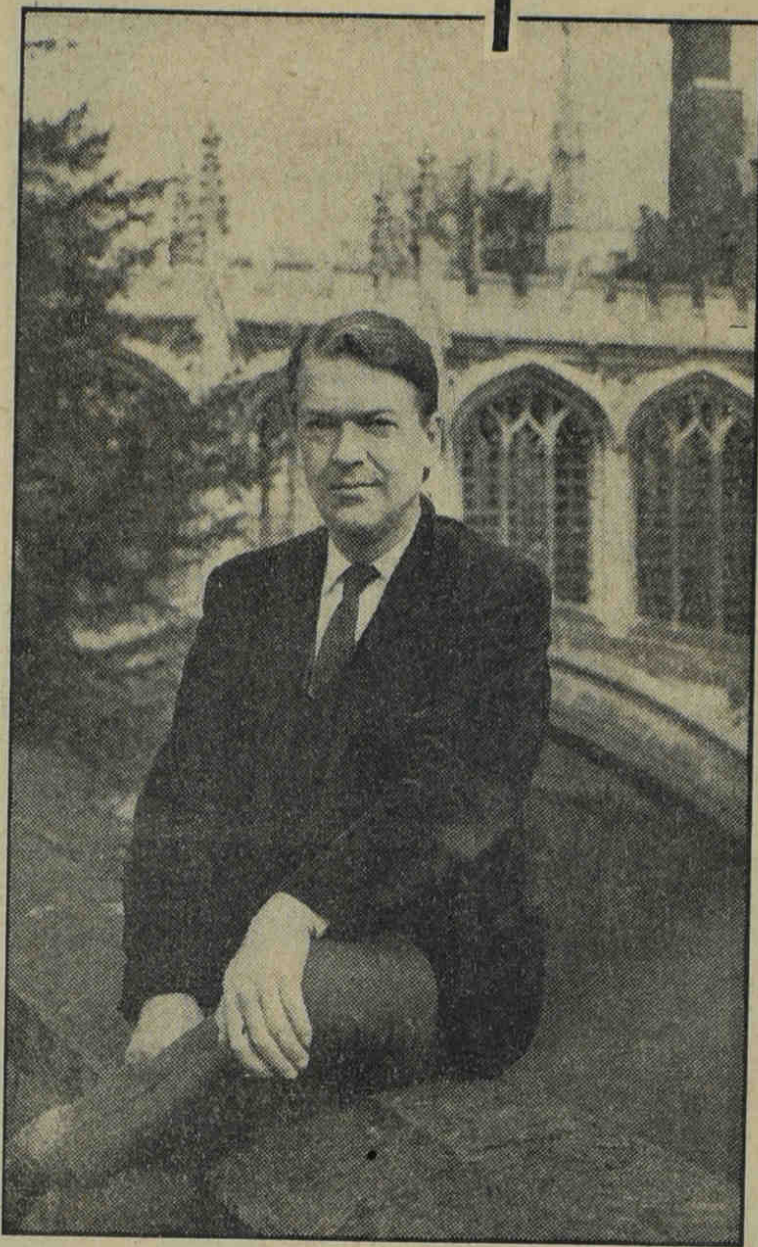
P₂

FIA(JC)

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Date..... - 8 MAR 1963

DAILY HERALD



Angry Young Man tag on him.

"I don't want to do 'documentary realism' any more. In England one is supposed to be a writer about Britain in the '50s or '60s. I don't want to write that kind of book.

Complaints

"As a Socialist, I complain about a lot of things, but as a novelist I'm fascinated by human nature, how people behave to each other, rather than the effects of the class system."

Amis admits he will miss teaching — "The excitement of communicating with young minds is great.

"But for the first time I'll be *self-employed*." He spoke the word in italics.

"It's like leaving school again. I feel 20 years younger."

● Kingsley Amis (above, in Cambridge) is a young-looking 40; more like an actor than a don, with his Chelsea-style haircut and casual clothes.

Born in London's lower middle class S.E.16, son of a clerk in a mustard firm.

First turning point was when he won a scholarship to City of London School; then open exhibition that took him to Oxford. Met his lively blonde wife Hilary when they were both students there.

They have three children: Phillip and Martin, in their early teens, and Sally, nine. They also have a pet donkey who will accompany them to Majorca.

Amis taught at University College, Swansea, for 12 years before going to Cambridge just over a year ago.

Jazz fan. Posed for beer advertisement because he likes beer.

CONFIDENTIAL

From:—THE CHIEF CONSTABLE,

To:—Box 500,

City Police,
Cambridge.PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Our Ref.: HFF/HMC.A.1/62

Date.....16th January, 1963.

Your Ref.:

Name:

AMIS, Kingsley William

@:

Please note the following additional/amended information in respect of the above:

Full Names:

@:

Address(es):
(Give dates)

Identity No.:

Nat.:

Born at:

on:

Occupation:

Employer:

ENCL.

18 JAN 1963

TO

REF

Security Information:

Miscellaneous:

Dear Sir,

Please refer to my letter dated 5th January, 1962, under the above reference relative to the above named.

Will you please note that Mr. AMIS now resides in this City at No. 9, Madingley Road.

He is still a Fellow and Director of Studies in English at Peterhouse.

Yours sincerely,

B. L. Bessington
Chief Constable

NOTE:—Information sought for record purposes is:

- Identification data (i.e., name, full christian names; alias(es); address(es); date of birth; identity number; occupation/employer)
- Details of the person's relationship with a suspect organisation (e.g., as a member, active or otherwise; or official; or an associate, close or casual, etc.)

CONFIDENTIAL

From:—THE CHIEF CONSTABLE,
City Police,
CAMBRIDGE

To:—Box 500,
PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Our Ref.: HFF/IMC. A.1/62

Date: 31st. January, 1963

Your Ref.:

Name: AMIS, Kingsley William

@:

Please note the following additional/amended information in respect of the above:

Full Names: As above

@:

Address(es): 9, Madingley Road, Cambridge.
(Give dates)

Identity No.:

Nat.:

Born at:

on:

Occupation:

Employer:

ENCL

- 4 FEB 1963

IO

PF

PF. 293, 244

Noted in E. 1. h8

3/2/64

Security Information:

Miscellaneous:

Dear Sir,

Further to my Form S.283A dated 16th. January, 1963, I have to inform you that the above named has tendered his resignation as a Fellow of Peterhouse, Cambridge.

His contract expires in September of this year, and it is reported that Mr. AMIS will be leaving this country for Majorca in the Spring of 1964.

Yours sincerely

Chief Constable.

NOTE:—Information sought for record purposes is:

- (a) Identification data (i.e., name, full christian names; alias(es); address(es); date of birth; identity number; occupation/employer)
- (b) Details of the person's relationship with a suspect organisation (e.g., as a member, active or otherwise; or official; or an associate, close or casual, etc.)

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

THE TIMES

Date.....

21 DEC 1962

27/12

12A-37- 293244

500

~~R24~~

MR. AMIS RESIGNS FELLOWSHIP

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CAMBRIDGE, DEC. 20

X Mr. Kingsley Amis, the author, who has held an English fellowship at Peterhouse, Cambridge, for the past year, has resigned his post and will leave at the end of next year.

Mr. Amis, who is 40, said at his home in Madingley Road, Cambridge, today: "I dislike the excessive formality of faculty life—too much dressing up and respectability. I do not like having to wait for a smoke after dinner until the port has gone round high table twice. Dining out in other colleges as a guest seems to me to involve an excessive amount of protocol."

"The atmosphere in Peterhouse has always been most friendly. My fellow dons were relaxed, unmalicious and never stooped to backbiting. I cannot say the same about the rest of the Cambridge academic world."

Mr. Amis continued: "When I have escaped from the stuffiness of Cambridge I shall take my wife and children to Majorca. I hope to finish one uncompleted novel, and I have an idea for a further novel which will be a radical departure for me."

27 DEC 1962

[Signature]
1/11/63
G.H./H.M.

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Date.

14 JAN 1962

THE OBSERVER

PA 7F 293244

PROFILE

JUDGED by his own definition of success—to succeed in one's chosen career—Kingsley William Amis has no reason to feel sorry for himself. As a novelist he commands both critical respect and best-seller sales; as an academic he left Swansea last summer after eleven satisfactory years there as an English lecturer and he has now gone to Cambridge as the first Director of Studies in English at Peterhouse who is also a Fellow of the College. Financially he has little cause for regret: besides his salary and literary earnings, the film of his second novel had its first showing last week.

But any serious writer wants his books to be read as he intended, and here Amis has less reason for satisfaction. His first novel, "Lucky Jim" (which has also been filmed), had an immediate welcome when it appeared in January, 1954; it also became the symbol of an ill-defined movement of revolt whose members, whether or not they admitted membership, were lumped together under the much-misused label, Angry Young Men.

Novel interpreted wrongly

Even more annoying for Amis, the novel was widely misread. Because its hero, Jim Dixon, was appalled by the tediousness and falseness of much of academic life, he was interpreted as a symbol of anti-intellectualism. Because he taught at a provincial university, he became a symbol of contempt for Oxford and Cambridge. And because Amis himself taught at a provincial university, he and Dixon became associated in people's minds.

In fact, Amis resembles Dixon chiefly in his ability and readiness to make funny faces (his features, thanks to an almost imperceptibly drooping left eyelid, give the faintest impression of lop-sidedness). Dixon is a hopeless lecturer who detests his job: Amis enjoys his work. Dixon is aggressively conscious of his social, cultural and intellectual shortcomings: Amis, now thirty-nine, charming and socially assured, is in no apparent doubt of his cultural and intellectual qualifications.

Perhaps he is confident because



S.L.U. B.P. R. DONALL
KINGSLEY AMIS

FROM THE PRESS

THE OBSERVER

Date..... 14 JAN 1962

he had an uncomplicated background. He was an only child. His father was an export clerk with a manufacturing firm, earning just enough to provide his family with a comfortable home in Norbury, S.W.16. His mother, he remembers, had a maid when he was small, and he himself never lacked "any reasonable luxury." He won a scholarship to the City of London School, a day boys' public school where Asquith had been educated, and won an open exhibition to St. John's College, Oxford. In 1942 he went into the Army (Royal Signals), which he disliked, mainly because of his fellow officers, especially majors and above; but is glad to have had the experience.

In October, 1945, he went back to Oxford, took a First in English, but, somewhat to his surprise, failed to get his B.Litt. In 1949 he went to Swansea, where, except for a year at Princeton as visiting lecturer in creative writing, he remained until last year.

Personal experience of poverty

While never really poor, he has been too close to poverty for comfort: the near-squalid conditions of "That Uncertain Feeling" were largely taken from personal experience. But in 1951 his wife (he married in 1947 and has two sons, aged thirteen and twelve, and a daughter of eight) came into enough money for them to buy a house, furnish it properly and buy a car. It was now that "Lucky Jim," on which he had been working for years, really got under way, and its appearance in 1954 put him well into the upper income group. (So far the book has had twenty-one impressions besides paperback editions. Translations include: "Jim il Fortunato," "Jim-la-Chance," "Glück für Jim" and

the Polish "Jim Szeszciarz.") Amis lives a few miles outside Cambridge in an old cottage, large, warm and convenient enough for comfort; this month he hopes to move into a house he has bought in the town. His oldest and youngest children go to local private schools; the younger boy is at Cambridge Grammar School (he would like to see the great public schools abolished, except that "governments which abolish bad things tend to abolish good things, like liberty"; he would not send his children to one). He eats and drinks well—studying drink is the nearest he has to a hobby (perhaps this was why he had no objection to sponsoring a beer advertisement: "I thought it would be fun, and it was"). He collects recipes for powerful mixtures such as Mr. Sutton's Gin Blind: four parts gin, two parts brandy, one part orange curacao. He dresses smartly: in "Take a Girl Like You," Patrick's interest in clothes "is a bit of me."

It is not clear just how seriously he takes his politics, especially in view of his Fabian pamphlet, "Socialism and the Intellectuals," which appeared in 1957 and contained the remark that the best and most trustworthy political motive was self-interest. It was unwise not to amplify the apparent paradox: what he dislikes, as he made clear in a radio talk last summer, is unquestioning enthusiasm for immediately popular, emotion-rousing causes. The implication is that the better way is steady support of less spectacular, even unpopular causes. This is a valid argument; it is also true that it is easier to note causes that Amis thinks should not be supported than causes he thinks should.

The pamphlet gave rise to another mistaken idea about Amis, that he is frightened of being thought an intellectual. What he is frightened of (and this comes through in some of his poems) is intellectual pretentiousness, which may help to explain his advocacy of science fiction as a legitimate form of literature—his "New Maps of Hell" is the first serious appreciation of science fiction—and his advocacy of jazz as a legitimate form of music.

Pointed observation of society

Sweeping statements about Society are not really Amis's line, however. He is more at home as a critic of Eng. Lit., where his "revaluations" are controversial and highly readable: he has called "Beowulf" the only long poem in the language more boring than "The Owl and the Nightingale," and he dismissed most of Dylan Thomas as "a blend of answerless riddle, outworn poeticism and careful linguistic folly."

Most of all, he is at home as a novelist, where he has provided some wonderfully funny writing and some of the most pointed observation of contemporary society. Above all, there is the Amis Figure, not necessarily the "great English comic invention" hailed by some critics, but certainly developing from his first appearance as Jim Dixon, who was a bit of a caricature, to his latest as Patrick Standish, who is far more carefully observed.

As a novelist, Amis's greatest

weakness is construction. In "Lucky Jim" the characters appeared when the plot needed them rather than when circumstances did. "That Uncertain Feeling" (published in 1955; its film title is: "Only Two Can Play") was more tightly written and technically a big advance, but it had a sentimental ending tacked on, quite out of key with the rest of the book. "I Like it Here" (1958), his weakest book,

had a slight element of mystery, perfunctorily married to an account of a trip to Portugal. The ending of the latest, "Take a Girl Like You" (1960), was indeed implicit in its beginning—too implicit, perhaps. It was so inevitable that some people ceased to care just how it was reached.

He writes slowly, making notes on the back of cheque books, old envelopes and other scraps of paper. Then, when he has time, they go into a 1s. 3d. exercise book. For his next novel, set mainly in America (which he admires, somewhat uncritically), the exercise book has such jottings as:—

Ernst stickler for accuracy. Impression of having done fair amount of stickling in other fields.

Irving to Roger: "I'm your unsteady influence."

The Bangs quarrel in Danish at party. H. challenges E. to remember her history. —You were born in Kalundborg. —You see! K! That fish market! Later about religion.

Finally, when enough of the plot is clear, he starts writing, straight on to a typewriter.

Bad reviews spoil breakfast

Amis claims that "I try to write good books," and his unvarying text is that it takes a serious writer to be a really funny writer. Bad reviews hurt, but "although they spoil breakfast, they don't spoil lunch." It is not that he is arrogant. Moments of feeling inadequate come only too often, as a writer, as a teacher ("there is nothing more depressing than to come out of a tutorial and think, 'My God, I've taught that girl nothing'") or as anything else. He tries to be thankful for such moments—he believes they help him to be a better writer and a better person.

Some people complain that he harps on sex. Others try to read his novels as social commentaries. He finds such judgments irrelevant, though the fact that they are made at all is evidence of incomplete communication on his part. But such critics have a clue. Amis is a man of his time who writes good comedy and incidentally produces a disconcertingly accurate picture of the world around him. Never before has society examined itself so closely and constantly. And if some of Amis's characters are immoral and frank about it, they are not very different from the world they mirror.

178
15A

48a

ANY FURTHER COMMUNICATIONS ON
THE SUBJECT OF THIS LETTER
SHOULD BE ADDRESSED

THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

AND THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE
QUOTED:

HFF/HMC.A.1/62

YOUR REF.....



B. N. BEBBINGTON, O.B.E.

CHIEF CONSTABLE

TEL. NO. 52255-7

TELEX NO. 81137

CONFIDENTIAL

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S OFFICE
CITY POLICE
CAMBRIDGE

5th January, 1962.

The Director General,
Security Service,
Box No. 500,
Parliament Street B.O.,
London, S.W.1.

ENCL.

- 9 JAN 1962

TO

FIA

REF

Dear Sir,

Kingsley William AMIS

I have to inform you that I have received
S.Form 288A from the Chief Constable, Borough Police,
Swansea, in respect of the above named person.

Mr. AMIS is now a Fellow and Director of Studies in
English at Peterhouse, Cambridge, and occupies Rooms L.7,
Gisborne Court at the College. His private address is
The Mill House, West Wratting, Cambs.

The Chief Constable, Cambridgeshire Constabulary,
has been notified that Mr. AMIS is residing in his
district.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Constable

CONFIDENTIAL.

From:—THE CHIEF CONSTABLE,
SWANSEA.

To:—Box 500, *47a*
PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Our Ref.: SW 225A.

Date.....23rd December, 1961....

Your Ref: PF. 293,244/F1A.

Name: AMIS, Kingsley William.

Please note the following ~~*additional/*~~ amended information in respect of the above:

Address: Present address not known.

Employment: October, 1961. Left Swansea to take up
(occupation: employer: employment with Cambridge University, following
military service details, his election as a Fellow of Peterhouse College.
etc.)

Personal Details:
(Birthdate
etc.)

Political activity:
status, etc.

ENCL. _____
98 28 DEC 1961
F1A
PF 293 244

Miscellaneous:

The above-named person's particulars have been given to
the Chief Constable, City Police Headquarters, Cambridge.

Respectfully submitted,

THIS IS A COPY
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958 JANUARY 2006

G. H. David

.....
Detective Inspector.

[Signature]
.....
Chief Constable of Swansea.



COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE
DOWNING STREET
LONDON S.W.1

9th October, 1961

Confidential

Whitehall 2323/Ext.

Your reference: PF.293,244/C3A

Please quote in reply: PG.44/47/2

46a

Dear Miss Anderson, *USA*

Would you please refer to your letter
of 25th August last about Mr. Kingsley Amis.

In the light of the information
contained in your letter of 16th February,
Mr. Amis was given clearance by us.

Yours sincerely,

ENCL. *K Blair*

TO. *10 OCT 1961*
C3A *Whe*

(K. Blair, Miss)

REF. *R 293244*

Miss M.R. Anderson,
Box 500.

llc
12/10/61
8/13
10.10.61

45a

CONFIDENTIAL & PERSONAL

PF. 293,244/C3A/MRA

25th August, 1961

Dear Mr. Costley-White,

Kingsley AMIS

Please refer to our letter of the 16th February, 1961, about the above named.

4/a

We should be glad to know whether you have yet taken a decision in this case.

Yours sincerely,

M. R. Anderson

M. R. Anderson.

CONFIDENTIAL & PERSONAL

C. G. Costley-White, Esq., C.M.G.,
Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

SPC
28/8
C3A/CAR
25.8.61

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

440

FILE
L.B

PF.293,244/C3B/1

20th April, 1961.

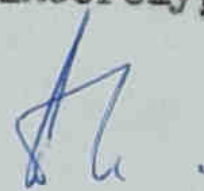
Dear Mr. Jupp,

Kingsley AMIS

Please refer to your vetting enquiry concerning the above-named submitted on behalf of the British Council.

We have nothing to add to our letters of 4th May, 1955 and 26th August, 1957 about Kingsley AMIS.

Yours sincerely,



C. H. Lowry.

C. N. Jupp, Esq.,
Foreign Office.
CHI/JKB

Enc: 1.

Handwritten notes:
2H H 61
C3B/1/96B
20.4.61.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FOREIGN OFFICE

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

Miss H. da Silva,
Specialist Tours Dept.
14th April, 1961

SP/3

Specialist Tour for British Council in Yugoslavia and ItalyPeriod in 1961/62Surname AMIS ~~Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms.~~ AMIS (Delete as required)

Name at Birth if different from above _____

Christian Names KingsleyOfficial Address University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, WalesTel. No. Swansea 56172.Home Address 53 Glanmor Road, Uplands, Swansea, Glam.

Tel. No. _____

Date of Birth 16 April 1922

Place of Birth _____

Present occupation Author, Lecturer in English, University College of Swansea, since 1949

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Departmental Reference _____

Serial No. 232/15/11/4.61

Previous Report _____

(07321)

P.F. 293. 244/C.3./M.M./SO. - 310.

h-a-4

S. Form 81/rev. 12.53

B.943. M.795766/7699. 3/60. 200M. H. E. & S. Gp.862/1

EXTRACT

Extract for File No.: PF. 293,244 Name: AMIS

Original in File No.:* Unfiled Vol.: Serial: Receipt Date:

Original from: Varsity Under Ref.: Dated: 4.3.61.

Extracted on: 10.4.61. by: PRH Section: R6.

Cutting from Varsity**NEWS IN BRIEF**

"LUCKY Jim", Kingsley Amis, now teaching English at the University College of Swansea, has accepted a nomination for a fellowship at Peterhouse. If, as expected, he is elected, he will probably come up in October. Mr. Wormald, Senior Tutor, and one of the three directors of studies in History, said: "He will be taking charge of English." At present Peterhouse have no director of studies in English.

MISS Olu Abisogun, third year Girton student from Nigeria, accused Professor J. Gallagher, Dean of Trinity, of refusing to face facts at a meeting of the Commonwealth Society on Monday. He was talking on the Congo.

The Dean finally gave in to Miss Abisogun's attack with the words: "I know when I am beaten." After the meeting Miss Abisogun continued her argument with renewed vigour.

*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner.

CONFIDENTIAL & PERSONAL

41a
A.I. Book NV"D"
File
L. Letter Book

FF.293,244/C3A/3

16th February, 1961.

Dear Mr. Costley-White,

Kingsley AMIS

Would you please refer to attached vetting enquiry from the British Council which was forwarded by Miss Blair on 27th January, 1961, under reference PG.44/47/1.

Whilst a student at Oxford University, Kingsley William AMIS was reported in 1942 to be an enthusiastic new recruit of the Communist Party; in the same year he enlisted for war service with the Army, and in 1944 he was the subject of a report which suggested that he was receiving regular supplies of the Daily Worker: since then he has not again come to adverse notice.

In 1957, there was some correspondence in the "Daily Worker", evoked by a review of his pamphlet, entitled "Socialism and the Intellectual" which appeared in that paper. In the course of this correspondence, AMIS claimed to have utterly rejected Marxism, and stated that he had felt obliged, after the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, to break off contact with these of his friends who were Communists.

The above information does not in the view of the Security Service provide grounds for denying the candidate employment in a post affording opportunity for subversive activity.

May we please be informed of your decision in due course.

Yours sincerely,

h
C. H. Newington.

C.G. Costley-White, Esq., C.N.G.,
Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

CHN/ECB(AR)

Enc: 1.

CONFIDENTIAL & PERSONAL

172161
16 FEB 1961

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE
DOWNING STREET
LONDON, S.W.1

Whitehall 2323/Ext.

27th January, 1961.

Your Reference:

Please quote in reply: PG.44/47/1

Dear Miss Newington,

As in previous years, the British Council is planning to hold English Literature Seminars in India during the coming winter.

The lecturers under consideration include:

Kingsley Armitis

Randolph Quirk

G.H.W. Rylands.

N.R.A. - 3/2/61

PF 604, 685 - re tel NNA on 3/2

Particulars of the candidates are attached and we should be glad to learn whether you have anything recorded about them.

Yours sincerely,

ENCL.

30 JAN 1961

C.3. A.

K Blair

(Miss K. Blair)

Miss C. Newington,
Box 500.

AR/C3A/3
6/2/61

SECRET

362

4980

PA's 9/9
 DDG 9/9
 for PA please.

INCL. —
 dt. - 5 SEP 1958 c 8/9
 TO C3
 REF. PF293244

American Embassy
 71 Grosvenor Street
 London, W. 1

4 September 1958

H. Harold Potter, Esq.
 MI-5

Dear Harold,

Kingsley AMIS

Reference is made to our earlier correspondence and discussions concerning the issuance of a visa to the United States to Mr. Kingsley AMIS. This is to confirm that, after a review of the case, it was determined by the pertinent U. S. Embassy officials that Mr. AMIS was fully eligible for a visitor's visa to the United States.

Sincerely yours,

SECRET

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 ACT 1958 JANUARY 2016

V

PF 293244

33a

C3 A.I. Letterbook

PF 293244/C3/DCM

American Embassy,
71 Grosvenor Street, W.1.

Kingsley AMIS.

Please refer to your U.S. Employment check for the above named.

Kingsley AMIS was reported, when at his University in 1942, to be a member of the Communist Party. In 1944, when in the Army, he again attracted notice as a recipient of the Daily Worker. He has not come to adverse notice since 1944. On 12th February this year the Daily Worker published a review of his pamphlet on "Socialism and the Intellectual". Two days later, in his reply to the review, AMIS claimed to have rejected Marxism, stating,
"I have experienced the ailment and so am immune."

27 November, 1957.

DCM/LW
Enc: 1.

THIS IS A COPY
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IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958 JANUARY 20 16

U.S. EMPLOYMENTNAME: ANIS KINGSLEY
Last First Middle

DATE:

November 18, 1957

32a

DATE, PLACE OF BIRTH: April 16, 1922 London.

PRESENT NATIONALITY: British NAT. REG. NO.

PRESENT ADDRESS: 53 Glamor Road, Uplands, Swansea.

LAST PRIVATE ADDRESS IN U.K.:

RESIDED IN U.K.: FROM TO

LIST NAME AND NATIONALITY AT BIRTH OF:

FATHER

HUSBAND

MOTHER

WIFE

SECURITY

PRESENT OR LAST EMPLOYER: University College, Swansea.

CHECK REQUESTED BY: Eleanor Wyllys Allen, Cultural Affairs Officer.

REASON FOR CHECK: Candidate for Foreign Leader grant.

EMBASSY EMP. FORM 2
15 Feb. 1951124
ad/c3
27/11/57

B.F. 12.9.57.

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

C.3.A.I. Book.
P.F. 293, 244.

319

P.F. 293, 244/C.3./MM/30.

OV.489.

26 August, 1957.

Dear Mr. Richards,

Kingsley William AMIS.

Will you please refer to your letter of 14th August, 1957.

On 12th February this year a review of a pamphlet by Kingsley AMIS on "Socialism and the Intellectual" appeared in the Daily Worker. Two days later in reply to the reviewer AMIS stated that he "had had Marxism - in both senses of the words. I have experienced the ailment and so am immune. And I have also utterly rejected it." From his reply it appears that AMIS renounced communism following the events in Hungary last year.

Yours sincerely,

W.16.7

for M. Makower.

F.B. Richards, Esq., D.S.C.,
Foreign Office.

MMH/AB.

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

RB
30/8/57
C3/1/53
26/8/57

FOREIGN OFFICE. S.W.1.

August 14, 1957.

QV 489/
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Miss Makower,

Please refer to your letter PF 293,
244/C.1.A/MM/VJ of May 4, 1955 about
Kingsley William AMIS. *sent 15/8*German Information Department have
again proposed to send him on a lecture
tour to Germany at some date to be fixed.
I should be grateful if you will let me
have any further information about him.

Yours sincerely,

T.H. Gillson

(T.H. Gillson)

ENCL

15 AUG 1957

TO

EF

p 293, 244

Miss M. Makower,

Security Service.

ASCE
30/8/57
15 8-57

FOR PF.293,244 - AMIS

EXTRACT FROM THE DAILY WORKER DATED FEBRUARY 20, 1957.

What Readers Say About Amis

I HAVE a friend, a member of the Communist Party, frail of body, now well into middle age, and still struggling and fighting away to further the interests of the working class.

He is just a labourer, sweating it out in a Clydeside shipyard, with a large, happy family who think the world of him.

He is to be seen in all kinds of weather, out in the streets, selling the Daily Worker, and he lives in a working-class area—where so many are opposed to his ideas, but who, when met with the everyday problems that beset them, all turn to wee "Johnny" for help and guidance.

In plain, a worthwhile and militant member of the working class.

I just can't imagine Kingsley Amis in the role of my working-class comrade.

JAMES MURPHY.

Glasgow, N.W.

Our lip service

KINGSLEY AMIS'S reply to Arnold Kettle has focused attention on an important weakness in the way that many of us have attempted to present our ideas.

Amis rejects Marxism and contrasts his "truth" with our "certainty." This is an accurate description of a reaction we have frequently provoked, although surely it is not Kettle who is to blame for this particular response!

Why do we appear so confident but at the same time fail to find even a basis for discussion? Surely not only because we have hopes for the future!

Part of our failure arises, I believe, from our attitude to philosophy. We pay lip service to dialectical materialism, but regard its study as a luxury and its practical application as something that should develop subconsciously.

But, in addition to matters of policy, the underlying philosophic differences must be thrashed out before Social Democracy can be replaced by Marxism—as the theory behind the actions of the British working class.

Our "certainty" arises from an attitude to truth and knowledge. Truth is knowable, can be discovered. At any particular time our knowledge is incomplete and relative. The total knowledge of man-

Following the article by Arnold Kettle on February 12, and Kingsley Amis's letter two days later, a large number of letters were sent in to us. We publish below a cross-section of the comments received.

kind is a developing body of established truth with a growing basis of certainty.

The rejection of "certainty" is the rejection of the possibility of such knowledge. It is not an alternative to "truth" but a denial of truth. This is the teaching of logical-positivism—that we can never really know anything.

It is an old philosophy, repeatedly modernised, but always fulfilling one role—the undermining of confidence, leading to indecision and inaction.

Kettle has started a discussion which must be continued with Amis, and many others who share his ideas today.

We must learn how to extend such discussions, and at the same time find common interests in the day-to-day struggles.

We shall do this only when we appreciate the origins of the ideas that underlie our own thinking, as well as those behind the arguments of those with whom we differ.

RUSCOE CLARKE.

Birmingham, 13.

Glycerine tear

WHETHER one assumes that capitalism is on the way out depends on a multitude of factors.

For instance—a Texan oil millionaire would not imagine it for one moment. Nor would many lesser fleas, however much some of them might shed a glycerine tear and wish that "in a way" they could!

Regarding the society of the future, if it is not to be Socialism perhaps Amis will write another Fabian pamphlet and allow us all to catch a glimpse of the society he vaguely hints at.

Meanwhile we will wait patiently, somewhat tremulously, and hope against hope that too many mal-nutritioned corpses of old age pensioners don't harry our consciences.

Or that Britain doesn't find total extinction in an atomic war.

STAN SEARCHFIELD.

London, E.

Self-contradictory

KINGSLEY AMIS has experienced the ailment of Marxism and is now immune. He has utterly rejected it.

"Each fact, each entity, each event is unique. To pretend otherwise is mere Victorian system-building."

So here he is stressing a characteristic held in common by a series of unique events. They have at once both unique and general properties. So his own statement contradicts what he is asserting.

Indeed, if Kingsley Amis will only think again he will see that the one-sided attitude he is adopting would logically inhibit him from using words or from thinking at all.

The fallacy of his viewpoint is evident from the very existence of science and literature.

He is probably right in saying his early experiences of Marxism was an ailment. Perhaps it is worth while now looking at it with more mature eyes.

HYMAN LEVY.

London, S.W.

the world, and only a political ostrich would write it off.

The tragedy of Hungary gives no one the right to shirk political questions.

If Communists must accept the bitter lessons of the crimes of Gero and Rakosi, then our critics should recognise the role of the American State Department and their Radio Free Europe.

"Lucky Jim" would do well to look inquiringly, and forward with confidence, than back in anger.

BILL LOOKER.

London, N.

Best friends?

KINGSLEY AMIS finished his article by saying some of his best friends are now no more because of Hungary. I say, if that is the depth of the friendship of K. Amis he has a shallow mind to blame the upheaval in Hungary on to his ex-best British Communist friends.

I wonder if he has lost any best Tory friends over the Suez? Perhaps God was on our side there!

S. SIMPSON.

Sheffield, 9.

Wasted space?

OUR Daily Worker is a working-class paper. Just as a scientist specialises in his own field, so should our paper specialise in helping the progress of the people through the working-class struggle.

Kingsley Amis does not realise the overwhelming importance of our class struggle. Why give so much space to one who classes Marxism as a disease? Marxism is a science which is gaining increasing respect throughout the world.

ALEC WHITE.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, 12.

Class distinctions

THE limit of Amis's confusion is reached when while agreeing that there is a class struggle he goes on to say "but it never was all-important anyway" . . . "nor was the economic motive."

While I don't consider myself to be an intellectual (my contribution to society is driving a railway engine), I certainly find that the class distinctions in society and the economic motive are all-important barriers which, until eliminated, stifle all attempts to create the kind of world that myself and millions like me wish to live in.

JIM OLDBURY.

Warrington

Denies science

THERE is no contradiction between recognising uniqueness (i.e., no set of circumstances is exactly repeated) and recognising that these unique events follow laws of development (i.e., the assumption underlying "system-building").

To deny the latter, as Mr. Amis apparently does, is to deny not only Marxism but all science. If "each entity, each event" is unique, and not causally connected with others, then clearly there can be no science.

Marxists do not say that the coming of Socialism is a certainty. We might be blown to bits by H-bombs; in fact, that would be the probable outcome if all Socialists followed the programme of masterly inactivity advocated by Kingsley Amis.

Given that we can avoid the holocaust of atomic war, Marxists are sure that Socialism will supplant capitalism.

Not for mystical reasons, but because we can observe as undeniable facts the continuous growth of the power of working-class movements and the Socialisation of the process of production within capitalism.

F. P. P.

Hull.

Re-evaluation

TO say that Marxists equate certainty with truth is just another Young Conservative debating note.

The current edition of Marxist Quarterly typifies the re-evaluation taking place among Marxists. That which is certain does not re-evaluate. It is also true that modern armaments have robbed the word "certain" of meaning.

I suggest that Mr. Amis is confusing it with Marxist refusal to recline upon a Regency couch when such armaments—and growing economic threats—are so near to us all.

H. SMITH.

London, S.W.

Letters intended for publication should be brief and addressed to: Forum, 75 Farringdon Road, London, E.C.1.

Clean hands

LIKE so many capitalist intellectuals Kingsley Amis wants rights without responsibilities. Not prepared to dirty his hands with the class struggle, he will not hesitate to criticise from a great height the Socialist system which will result from the efforts of others.

Mr. Amis hopes for something better than Socialism (Amisism presumably ?) and, of course, there are alternatives to Socialism, Hitler had one. Unfortunately for Mr. Amis Socialism is a fact in one third of

COUNTY BOROUGH



OF SWANSEA

TELEPHONE NO. 52222

D. V. TURNER, O.B.E.
CHIEF CONSTABLECENTRAL POLICE STATION
SWANSEA

Our Ref. SW. 225A.

19th February, 1957.

Your Ref. PF. 293,244/F.1.A.

ENCL.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Sir,

Kingsley William AMIS.

I draw your attention to an interesting article that appeared in the 'Daily Worker' on the 12th instant, written by Arnold Kettle under the title 'Some of my best friends are Intellectuals', and which referred to the above-named person.

A reply to the article from Amis appeared in the 'Daily Worker' on the 14th February, 1957, which indicates that he has become estranged to the Communist Party since the Hungarian Rising.

Yours faithfully,

Chief Constable.

The Director General,
Box No. 500,
Parliament Street B.O.,
LONDON, S.W.1.

SB/GFD.

5.3.57
63/5718
25/2/57

256
 PF.293,244 - AMIS

R4 26/2
 256
 EXTRACT FROM THE DAILY WORKER DATED THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14 1957

Pf. 293244
**Amis replies
 to Kettle**

Capitalism hasn't 'had it'

MAY I make a couple of comments on Mr. Arnold Kettle's friendly notice of my pamphlet, *Socialism and the Intellectuals*?

I know he means to compliment me by saying that my "basic political assumptions... are nearer to Marxism than most social-democratic thinking," and I hope I won't be thought ungrateful if I contest this representation of me.

Other struggles

I don't assume that capitalism has "had it." In a way I wish I could, but that's different. Nor do I assume that Socialism is "the society of the future."

It may never come.

Or something better may replace it. And I don't mean the withering away of the State.

I agree that there is a class struggle, but I think there are other struggles (racial, national, etc.) of equal political importance.

And it is being replaced in our society by other kinds of struggle. But it never was all-important, anyway. Nor was economic motive.

Marxism

You see, I have had Marxism—in both sense of the words. I have experienced the ailment and so am immune. And I have also utterly rejected it.

No world-view, if seems to me, comes within light-years of being adequate to the world it professes to categorise.

Each fact, each entity, each event is unique. To pretend otherwise is mere Victorian system-building.

Marxism, I think, does just that.

It repels me also by offering certainty instead of truth—Mr.



Kettle denies this, but he himself is so certain that Socialism is "the society of the future" that he thinks I am certain of it, too.

He also denies that the Communist Party goes in for violence.

What really happened in Hungary, then?

Wasn't there any violence? Or was it all inter-Hungarian violence, with the Russian troops acting as umpires? Or were they acting against Russian orders? Or have the Russian Government given up Communism?

I know Mr. Kettle was really talking about the British Communist Party. They aren't violent, and I hope they never get the chance, harmless as they may be now. Yes, even amiable, and I used to be able to say that some of my best friends were Communists. I can't after Hungary.

Kingsley Amis

University College
 of Swansea.

nds

ass intellectuals as the
of human freedom. The
ass intellectuals as the
of the Socialist and Com-
rties.

rt of supreme claim once
th diffidence for the
poets of mankind has
self-awarded banner
up whose outstand-
re a group has always
een their political irre-
ty.

Cripps and her friends are
e lunatic fringe of a much
nd.

o Kingsley Amis' credit
does not for a moment
that the future of the
ends on the readers of
Statesman and the Man-
Guardian (which isn't to
what is progressive and
e in those journals).

lication

ective implication of
is, rather, to go to the
eme and to under-
the importance and
ss of the intellectuals.
comes to his final ques-
if anything the intel-
to give to the Labour
he answers lamely: "I
much if he has any-

much too easy a get-out.
t the Labour movement
alliance of progressive
ss people just as much as
hey are to fill their best
s, need the working-class
t.

anger of Mr. Amis' pam-
because of its cynicism, is
may help to encourage that
ellectualism which has
been a bane of the British



#F 293,244
KINGSLEY AMIS

—don't get him wrong.



Labour movement. And that
would be no service to anyone.

Kingsley Amis is being treated,
because of his pamphlet, to a series
of smug and high-minded lectures
from all sections of the Press—Left
and Right. I sympathise with him
and I think the lectures will cut
very little ice, and quite rightly, for
they are for the most part far more
out of touch with any important
aspect of contemporary reality that
Mr. Amis is.

Yet I cannot help wishing he
would replace that sense of guilt
which he refers to in the last para-
graph of his pamphlet by something
a bit more tough-minded. For one
thing—as one English lecturer to
another—I think it would make him
a better writer.

CUTTING FROM THE "DAILY WORKER"

12th February, 1957.

Some of My Best Friends are Intellectuals

KINGSLEY AMIS, university lecturer, jazz pundit and author of the best-selling "Lucky Jim," has written a Fabian pamphlet on Socialism and the Intellectuals.

It will be rather widely read as Mr. Amis has become well known as a "representative" type. He is, everyone knows, typical of the younger intellectuals who got their education not at Eton and Oxford (though, in fact, Mr. Amis happened to go to the latter), but at the local grammar school and the nearest-but-one provincial university.

I think the claim of representativeness made for Mr. Amis (he doesn't make it himself and is a nice, modest chap, sensibly enough not above or below cashing in on the situation with his eyes open) has a good deal in it.

His outlook on life—dislike of pretentiousness, snobbery, idealistic windbagery, the ruling Establishment; a predisposition in favour of democracy, peace, a common-sense rationalism, Socialism—is widespread and sympathetic enough.

He is more serious than he pretends to want you to think him, though less serious than some of his fans would like us—and him—to think.

For these among other reasons his pamphlet is worth reading, particularly if you don't consider yourself an intellectual. It won't tell you much about Socialism, but it is a significant social document of the day.

Assumptions

Quite obviously, Communists and militant trade unionists will find plenty to disagree with in Kingsley Amis' attitude to life. Quite apart from various specific questions of fact and policy, they will suspect and dislike the cynical and negative tone of his pamphlet. And they may feel tempted to throw it aside with a contemptuous and possibly unprintable epithet.

I think they will be wrong if they do so, for Kingsley Amis is as much a part of the world of 1957 as television, rock 'n' roll and the F.A. Cup, and—I want to say this emphatically—not the least progressive part either.

Kingsley Amis' pamphlet is published by the Fabian Society, but one of the interesting things about it is that its basic political assumptions—I don't mean policy or tone—are nearer to Marxism than to most Social-Democratic thinking. It is worth examining some of these basic assumptions, which aren't clearly stated, but underlie the political attitudes expressed.

1 He assumes that capitalism has, in the long run at least, had it, and that Socialism is the society of the future.

2 He assumes that there is a class struggle and that progressive people have to be on the side of the working class in that struggle.

3 He is a materialist, recognising the fundamental significance of economic interest in the political struggle. He says, for instance, about his own boredom with politics:

"Obviously the reasons for mine are that I feel my security is not threatened—perhaps it is, but, no matter, it doesn't *seem* to be."

It is true that this materialism is, to the Marxist, quite inadequate, being crude and mechanical instead of dialectical and creative; but that is another matter. . . .

Typical

Mr. Amis probably wouldn't agree that his outlook is deeply influenced by Marxism. He has some pretty silly things to say about Communists. Communism, he tells us, has two particular attractions for intellectuals looking for a cause; it offers certainty and violence. I'm afraid that if he ever gets around to joining the Communist Party, which I hope he will, he is in for a disappointment.

What is perhaps most interesting is Kingsley Amis' attitude to the social group to which he and I belong—the middle-class intellectuals. He sees them—as a group, of course, not as individuals—as essentially smug, despite their sophistication; self-deceiving, for all their frankness, and in their political attitudes essentially romantic, despite their cynicism.

I think the picture he paints is very largely true. Unfortunately, however, because he insists on

says ARNOLD KETTLE

identifying himself to a very large extent with what he sees through, the picture remains incomplete and his pamphlet itself takes on much of the shoddy and superficial quality which he shrewdly exposes.

I think Kingsley Amis is typical of scores of decent Leftish intellectuals who see pretty clearly the moral rottenness and political bankruptcy of British capitalism, but for a variety of reasons, some good, some bad, jib at taking the actions necessary to alter things.

Naturally they will get no inspiration or confidence from the Labour Party as long as it is dominated by Right Wing ideas, basic acceptance of imperialism and fear and mistrust of radical Socialism wherever it appears in the world.

Idealism

And naturally in a world near the climax of international class struggle in which the issues of political power have crude and ugly features, it often seems the easiest and least compromising way to contract out of political responsibility and retire into a disenchanted cynicism mixed with embittered idealism.

It was relatively easy for progressive intellectuals in the '30s to become politically active. At home they saw the human degradation of unemployment and Tory hypocrisy and felt in their own lives the economic instability of capitalism. Abroad they saw the rise of fascism and its hideous threat not only to peace and social advance but to all

liberal ideas and humanitarian principles.

But anti-Toryism, anti-fascism and a rather idealistic sympathy for Socialism, though admirable enough as far as they go, don't serve in the middle of the 20th century as sufficient guide to political understanding and action.

They may lead you to vote Labour (and even to lend your car and stick a card in your window at election times, as Mr. Amis does) and to be on the right side over Spain and Suez; but they don't help sufficiently with the tougher but no less vital issues—how to transform the Labour Party into a real Socialist party, how to understand what happened in Hungary, how to get the hang of the real depth and meaning of Marxism, how, without despising or denying the allegiances of one's environment, to make oneself a bit more than a middle-class intellectual.

The most difficult and most important political problem for intellectuals is to see themselves with some degree of objectivity and modesty in the historical situation we find ourselves in.

The ignorance and unrealism of the four Oxford students just back from Hungary is less terrifying than their unspeakable arrogance.

And behind that arrogance is a combination—no doubt quite unconscious—of the Herrenvolk mentality of an imperialist ruling class and a special modern brand of spiritual pride fed by the Orwells and Koestlers and their like into the middle-class intelligentsia.

The middle-class intellectuals as the conscience of the world. The

5.3.57

19.2.57.

24a

PF.293,244.

CUTTING FROM THE "DAILY WORKER"

Monday 11th February 1957.

THOSE ANGRY YOUNG MEN



"Kingsley Amis is as much
a part of the world of 1957
as television, rock 'n' roll
and the F.A. Cup,"

says

ARNOLD KETTLE

in a special article

TOMORROW

on Kingsley Amis's pam-
phlet "Socialism and the
Intellectual."

LASTRU
14/2/57

CONFIDENTIAL.

From:—THE CHIEF CONSTABLE,

To:—Box 500,

.....SWANSEA.....

PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,

LONDON, S.W.1.

Our Ref.: SW. 225.A.

Date.....28th May, 1956.

Your Ref: PF. 293,244/F.1.A.

Name: AMIS, Kingsley William.

Please note the following *additional/*amended information in respect of the above:

Address: May, 1956. "Windsor House", Glanmor Road, Swansea. X

Employment:
 (occupation: employer:
 military service details,
 etc.)

Personal Details:
 (Birthdate
 etc.)

Political activity:
 status, etc.

ENCL. —
 29 MAY 1956
 TO FIA
 REF. PF 293244

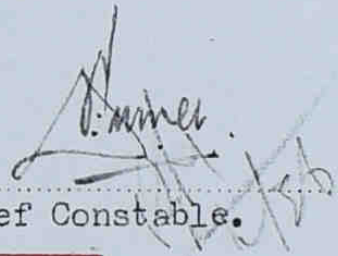
Miscellaneous:

Member of the Committee of Honour of The National Campaign
 for the Abolition of Capital Punishment, and a committee
 member of the Swansea Branch of this Association.

Respectfully submitted,



Detective Sergeant 34.



Chief Constable.

THIS IS A COPY
 ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED
 IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
 ACT 1958 JANUARY 2016

EXTRACT.**TOP SECRET**EXTRACT FOR FILE No. P.F. 293,244. NAME AMIS

The enclosed documents, in which reference is made to the subject of this file, formed part of the Communist Party's record of

Name.....Oxford University, Communist Activities at:-

Filed at serial....587yz......in file no....S.F. 468/2......Vol....13......

F.4. ref....Q37/9......Date.....5.4.56......

Extracted on.....25.7.57......by.....JEP......Section.....R.6.

which was obtained through Operation Party Piece (L.477/1).

WARNING

No mention of the material as a whole, nor of its origin, may be made in correspondence outside this office, nor may it be quoted verbatim. Items of information likely to be overtly known (e.g. Party position) may be quoted, but if in doubt please refer to F.4.

TOP SECRET

(52614) WT.46929/7989 200,000 8/56 A.&E.W.LTD. GP.677

S. Form 81/rev. 12.53

TOP SECRET
EXTRACTExtract for File No.: P.F. 293,244. Name: AMIS.Original in File No.: S.F. 468/2. Vol.: 13. Serial: 587yz. Receipt Date: 5.4.56.Original from: F.4. Operation Party Piece. Under Ref.: 037/9. Dated: Dec. 1942.Extracted on: 25.7.57. by: JEP. Section: R.6.

Extract from Information received by Communist Party Headquarters
re Communist Activities at Oxford University, obtained through F.4.
Operation Party Piece, ment: Comrade Kingsley AMIS.

.....

Rose remained on Branch Committee until he was called up in later in May. He recommended that Comrade Kingsley Amis who was greatly under the influence of Rose with whom he had been at school and any other strong minded person who liked to exert influence as Branch Secretary when he re resigned. When Amis was called up, Comrade Wynne Parsons, a very loyal comrade but one whose understanding of student work was not fully developed and who was extremely busy with his first exams, succeeded him.

.....

• If the original is in the file of an individual in the name of the file owner

SECRET

22 ^b

P.F. 293,244/E. 1./EBP

21st July 1955

Dear *C*

Kingsley William AMIS,
British, born: 16.4.22
Lecturer at University College, Swansea.

We have been informed that subject left England to visit Portugal, probably for 3 months, on 20th June, 1955. X

AMIS was reliably reported, when at his University in 1942, to be keen and promising new member of the Communist Party. In 1944 it was reported that, while in the Army, he was a recipient of Communist literature; at this time his Commanding Officer described him as young, inexperienced and inclined to take extremist views towards most aspects of life, and to make controversial statements in the hope of creating an impression.

AMIS has not come to adverse notice since 1944, and in 1949 we received a report on him indicating that he did not appear to indulge in any Communist activities at least in the locality of his home.

We should be grateful if you would let us know should he come to your notice while he is in Portugal. We should not, however, wish the Portuguese authorities to be made aware of our information on AMIS.

Yours sincerely,

SECRET

for L.B. Partridge.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

22A

From:—THE CHIEF CONSTABLE,
SWANSEA.

To:—Box 500,
PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Our Ref.: SW 225.

Your Ref: PF. 293,244/F.1.A.

Date.....5th July, 1955.

Name: AMIS, Kingsley William.

Please note the following *additional/*~~amended~~ information in respect of the above:

Address:

Employment:
(occupation: employer:
military service details,
etc.)

Personal Details:
(Birthdate
etc.)

Political activity:
status, etc.

Miscellaneous: Left Swansea with his family to visit
Portugal on 25th June, 1955.

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ACT 1958 JANUARY 2016

Respectfully submitted,

G. H. Davis

Detective Sergeant 34.

A. H. Smith

Chief Constable.

CONFIDENTIAL

Our Ref.: P.F.293,244/F.1.A.

BOX 500,

PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,

LONDON, S.W.1.

Date: 13.5.55.

*Delete as
necessary

To the *Chief Constable of SWANSEA.

**Commander, Special Branch, Scotland Yard.*

The Director General would be glad to receive any further information you may have about the individual mentioned below.

Please complete personal particulars and add any further information to this form and return one copy, retaining the other for your records.

NAME: AMIS, Kingsley William. M.A. (Oxon)

ALIAS:

ADDRESS(ES): 1942:3, Highfield Road, BERKHAMSTEAD, Herts.

(give dates) 1949: Marriners Cottage, Newlands Street, EYNSHAM, Oxon.

1954:24, The Grove, Uplands, SWANSEA.

IDENTITY NUMBER:

NAT.: British.

BORN AT: Clapham.

ON: 16.4.22

OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER: 1949: Student - St. John's College, Oxford.

1955: Lecturer, University College of Swansea.

English Language and Literature.

ENCL

21 JUN 1955

TO

REF

*PERSONAL
DESCRIPTION:

SECURITY

INFORMATION: 1942: Member of the Oxford Branch of the Communist Party.

For use of Chief Constable.

C.C. Ref.: SW 225.

20th June, 1955.

Amis has not previously come to notice in this County Borough as a person of security interest.

Enquiries reveal that he came to live at Swansea about six years ago and since then has been employed as a lecturer at the Swansea University.

Information has been received that his political outlook is that of a Socialist with a strong leaning towards the extreme left wing.

He is the author of the novel 'Lucky Jim' which was published

Continue overleaf if necessary. (Continued overleaf)

*Personal descriptions, unless specifically asked for, are not required by Box 500.

S. FORM 252A/rev. 9.54.

CONFIDENTIAL

in 1954 and was awarded the Somerset Maugham prize of £400 as the most promising novelist of 1954. In order to obey a condition of the award Amis is expected to visit Portugal shortly with his wife and family and spend three months there learning the manners and customs of the people. Amis has also written another novel 'That uncertain feeling' which will be published next month.

He resides with his wife, ~~William~~ ^{with wife} and children; Phillip aged 6 years; Martin aged 5 years and Sally Myfanwy aged 14 months at No. 24, The Grove, Uplands, Swansea.

Amis is known to be friendly with Mrs. Margaret Aeron Thomas, (Your Reference C.C. 222,402/T.4/DMN.) who often visits his home.

H. Amis
Chief Constable of Swansea.

20-
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.CONFIDENTIAL

May 11, 1955.

QV 489/3

*Dear Miss Makower,*Please refer to your letter
PF 293, 244/CIA/MM/UJ of May 4 about
Kingsley William Amis. 17a

2. German Information Department have decided not to call on Amis as a lecturer for a few years yet. Should they wish to reconsider him later they will submit his name again.

*Yours sincerely,**E.F.G. Maynard*

(E.F.G. Maynard)

7/12/5

Miss M. Makower,

ENCL -

C 13 MAY 1955

CIA/11/28/5

REF

PF 293244

*Jer. RE
12/15/55**CIA/11/28/55*

CONFIDENTIAL.

Our Ref.: P.F. 293, 244, F. 1. A.

Date: 13.5.55.

BOX 500,

PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,
LONDON, S.W.1.*Delete as
necessary

To the *Chief Constable of SWANSEA.

~~*Commander, Special Branch, Scotland Yard~~

The Director General would be glad to receive any further information you may have about the individual mentioned below.

Please complete personal particulars and add any further information to this form and return one copy, retaining the other for your records.

NAME: AMIS, Kingsley William.

ALIAS:

ADDRESS(ES): 1942: 3, Highfield Road, HERKHAMPSTEAD, Herts.
(give dates) 1949: Marriners Cottage, Newlands Street, EYNSHAM, Oxon.
1954: 24, The Grove, Uplands, SWANSEA.

IDENTITY NUMBER:

NAT.: British.

BORN AT: Clapham.

ON: 16.4.22

OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER:

1949: Student - St. John's College, Oxford.

1955: Lecturer, University College of Swansea.

*PERSONAL
DESCRIPTION:SECURITY
INFORMATION:

1942: Member of the Oxford Branch of the Communist Party.

C.C. Ref.:

For use of Chief Constable.

Amis
12/5/55

CONFIDENTIAL.*From* :—Box 500,

PARLIAMENT STREET, B.O.,

LONDON, S.W.1.

Our Ref. :

P.F. 293, 244/F.1.A.

Your Ref. :

SB./A 29 of 21.4.49

To :—THE CHIEF CONSTABLE,

OXFORD.

*COMMANDER, S.B.,

SCOTT/XXD/N/XXD/

Date.....

13.5.55.

Name: AMIS, Kingsley William.

Please note the following additional/amended information in respect of the above :

Full Names :

@ :

Address(es) :

(Give dates)

1954:24, The Grove, Uplands, SWANSEA.

Identity No. :

Nat. :

Born at :

on :

Occupation :

Employer :

1955:Lecturer,
1955:University College of Swansea.

Security Information :

Miscellaneous : CC Swansea has been informed.

NOTE:—Information sought for record purposes is:

- (a) Identification data (*i.e.*, name, full christian names; alias(es); address(es) date of birth; identity number; occupation/employer)
- (b) Details of the person's relationship with a suspect organisation (*e.g.*, as a member, active or otherwise; or official; or an associate, close or casual, etc.)

V.

17er

PF 293,244/C.1.A/MR/VJ.

FCE 1752.

4 May, 1955.

Dear

Kingsley William AMIS

Please refer to your vetting enquiry FCE 1752
received 12 April, 1955.

Kingsley William AMIS was reliably reported,
when at his University in 1942, to be a keen and pro-
mising new member of the Communist Party. In 1944 it
was reported that, while in the Army, he was a recipient
of Communist literature; at this time his Commanding Officer
described him as young, inexperienced and inclined
to take extremist views towards most aspects of life and
to make controversial statements in the hope of creating
an impression.

AMIS has not come to adverse notice since 1944, and
in 1949 we received a report on him indicating that he

J.E.D. Street Esq.,
Foreign Office.

/did not appear.....

Amendment
agreed with
F,3
will
9/5.

Amis
7/5/55

CIA/VI
6/5/53

V.

PF 293,244/O.1.A/MM/VJ.

-2-

did not appear to indulge in any Communist activities
at least in the locality of his home.

May we please have your decision in this case as
soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Makower
4/5
M. Makower.

J.E.D. Street Esq.,
Foreign Office.

Enc: 1.
MM/VJ.

v.

16a

PF. 293, 244.

Kingsley William AMIS

Kingsley William AMIS was reliably reported to be a keen and promising new member of the Communist Party at his University in 1942. In 1944 it was reported that, while in the Army, he was a recipient of Communist literature; at this time his Commanding Officer described him as young, inexperienced and inclined to take extremist views towards most aspects of life and to make controversial statements in the hope of creating an impression.

AMIS has not come to adverse notice since 1944, and in 1949 we received a report on him indicating that he did not appear to indulge in any Communist activities at least in the locality of his home.

W.G. Colfer
12/5/55

W.G. Colfer.

F. 3.
28/4.55

mw/F3
28/4.55

15a

Serial No.

FROM: G.I.D. *

CRD*

* sponsored visitor/lecturer to Germany

* lecturer for British Council at

on (Date) **not yet fixed**

* (No) Previous Report (On) 11/20/2011

* (Delete as required)

Surname **AMIS** **M.A. (Oxon)** (Mr./Mrs./Miss/or title) *

Name at Birth if different from above.

Christian Names.....Kingsley William

Official Address University College of Swansea

Tel. No. **Swansea 57805**

Home Address

Tel. No.

Date of Birth..... **not known**

Place of Birth.....not known

Present occupation University Lecturer in English, University College, Swansea

Recommended by **Cultural Relations Division, Cologne.**

M2954 46940—4

Am / 12/15
CIT 15
25/1

14a.

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From:—THE CHIEF CONSTABLE,

To:—Box 500,

OXFORD

PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,

Our Ref.: S.B./A. 29.

LONDON, S.W.1.

Your Ref: H.S. 293,244.

Date 21st April, 1949.

Name: AMIS, Kingsley William.

Please note the following *additional/~~amended~~ information in respect of the above:

1949:

Address: ~~Marriners~~ Cottages, Newlands Street, Eynsham, Oxon. X

Employment:
(occupation: employer:
military service details,
etc.)

X Is still a student at St. John's College, Oxford. X

Personal Details:
(Birthdate
etc.)

Political activity:
status, etc.

Miscellaneous:

ENCL

ms

21 APR 1949

R4

293.244

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ACT 1958 JANUARY 2016

Chief Constable.

CONFIDENTIAL.

11a

From:—THE CHIEF CONSTABLE,

To:—Box 500,

Hatfield, HERTFORDSHIRE,...

PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,

Our Ref.: CID. C/497.

LONDON, S.W.1.

Your Ref.: HS.293,244

Date 1st April, 1949.

Name: AMIS Kingsley William

Please note the following additional/amended information in respect of the above:

Address: Late of 26, Shrublands Road, Berkhamsted.

Left above address in November, 1947, and now believed to be living in Oxford. Previously resided at 19, St. John Street, Oxford.

Employment:

(C.C.Oxford informed 1.4.49).

(occupation: employer:

military service details,

Served with Royal Corps of Signals. Demobilised etc.) in October, 1945.

Personal Details: 16.4.22.

(Birthdate

, X DEB.3183129. X
etc.)

Political activity: Was a member of Oxford Branch of the C.P. in status, etc. 1942.

Miscellaneous: No evidence of Communistic activities while in the Herts P.D. Parents reside at Berkhamsted and are respectable persons. Stated to have been hotheaded in the Forces but to have "quietened down" following demobilisation.

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958 JANUARY 2016

ENCL

MUB

R4C

293,244.

NOTE:—Information sought for record purposes is:

Detective Superintendent.
for/Chief Constable.

- (a) Identification data (i.e., name, full christian names; alias(es); address(es) date of birth occupation/employer)
- (b) Facts regarding the individual's relationship with a political party (e.g., as a member, active or otherwise; or official; or as an associate, close or casual, etc., etc.)

From: Captain D.H. HIGHTON

SECRET & PERSONAL

G.S.I.

H.Q., British Army of the Rhine,
B.A.O.R.

CIB/SEC/2171 (Ami)

24 October. 1945.

Dear *Stuart*

In reply to your letter of the 4th July, 1945,
Lt. AMIS has now been demobilized, so I am afraid I
have been unable to get another report from his previous
Commanding Officer.

Yours

Sincerely
D.H. Highton

Lt.Col. J. Baskervyle-Glegg,
Room 055,
War Office,
Whitehall, SW1.

DH/JMG.

R.2.

Pl. to connect and
return to F/MA.

CR

Recd at
30 Oct

Receipt Form

29 OCT 1945

FMA (Direct)

31.10.45

URGENT.RECEIPT FORM.

P.A.

26 JUL 1945
Army Form A16

(Pads of 100).

To be completed and
returned immediately in
a single unregistered
envelope to

Lieut. Colonel J. Baskervyle-Glegg,
Room 055, War Office,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the undermentioned:—

Ref. No.	No. of copies	Copy Numbers	Distribution
293244/LMG of 4th July 1945	1 enc:		Major A. Rider.

Signed

Address

Date

18 July 1945

REMARKS

Note: The title of a Secret or Confidential Document must not be written on this Form.

M15058/3646. 30M. 9/44. W.B.&S. 52-6743.

J.B.G.

A 21 A.G. case
on whom there has
been no obs:

~~4.1.12~~ I presume
you will consider
him a candidate
for obs: when
we start up?

Not enough
at present to
P.O.C. him I

feel?

L.M.G.

See if MFS
will get a Berkhedden
Police eng'd done in home
area. (2)

NQ at hrs. ~~obs.~~ Obs later
inf.

W.H.

16/12

SECRET *Ga*

Room 055.

293244/LMG.

4th July, 1945.

Dear Rider,

I am much obliged for your 21 A Gp/INT/2171(A) of 24th June 1945 relating to the case of Lieut. K.W. AMIS.

I am interested in what the C.O. has to say about this officer, particularly as it tends to confirm what we already knew about him. There seems to be little doubt that his left-wing opinions have not changed to any extent since he first came to notice, and I accordingly think that he should remain under observation for the time being.

Would you therefore be kind enough to ask the C.O. to let us have a further report on Lieut. AMIS in due course.

Yours sincerely,

MB
Lt. Col. J. Baskervyle-Glegg.

Major A. Rider,
G.S.I. (b).,
Main Headquarters,
21 Army Group, B.L.A.

4/8
6-7
LMG/ISK
1 enc:
3 KIF-2a
4/7

From: - Capt. D.H. HIGHTON

SECRET & PERSONAL

home
28 JUN 1945

GS 'I' Headquarters,

21 Army Group, BIA

TO *F2A*
21 A Gp/INT/2171(A)

24 June, 1945.

Dear *Colonel,*

please go
Lieut. K.W. AMIS 91 TO Sect RCS. BIA

Reference your 29324/F.2.a./IMG dated 13 May 45.

I have communicated with the a/n man's CO and his report is as follows:-

"He has served under my command for nearly two years and during that time I have not found him a particularly inspiring personality. He is obviously well read, but a bit young and inexperienced in the ways of life. In discussions he has always tended to take extremist views towards most aspects of life and gives the impression of trying to compensate for his rather nebulous personality by making extreme and controversial statements in the hope that it will create an impression. I have consulted his Coy Comd who confirms these views and further states he has not shown any extremist tendency in his work or in his associations with his colleagues. I would add that my own view is that if he tried to there are few people who would take him seriously."

Yours *Sincerely*

Lt.-Col. J. Baskervyle-Glegg,
Room 055, The War Office.

REGISTERED/~~SDS~~/APO/~~SDR~~

EDL

D.H. Highton
7/30/6/45

y sent to H.Q. 21 Army Gp.

293244/F.2.a./LMG.

Lieut. K.W. AMIS.

91 TO. Sect. R.C.S.,

B.L.A.

This Officer came to notice in 1942 as a student at Oxford University when he was reported to be a very promising new member of the Oxford branch of the Communist Party.

Since being in the Army and in B.L.A. he is known to have been in touch with the Headquarters of the Daily Worker and it is therefore reasonable to suppose that his political views have not changed in any way.

He has not been under observation and it is therefore considered desirable, if present circumstances now permit, to obtain an up-to-date report on him from his C.O. He is at present N.Q. P.D.C.

13th May, 1945.

Extract from Personal & Army Papers

4a

General Particulars:

1. Full name (at birth if different)
Kingsley William AMIS.
2. Birth: Date: 16.4.22. Place: Clapham, London.
3. Nationality (at birth): British.
Now (if different):
Particulars of change:
4.
5. (a) Present address (or on enlistment): (b) Former address:
3. Highfield Road, Berkhamsted, Herts. (On enlistment).
26, Shrublands Road, Berkhamsted, Herts. (3.2.43.)
6. Religion: C of E.
7. Description and Medical Category:
Height: 5' 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ " Eyes: Blue. complexion: Fresh.
Weight: 144 lbs. Marks:
Hair: L. Brown. Med. Cat.: "A"
8. Civilian occupation and Ministry of Labour Code with interpretation:
Student.
9. Names, addresses and nationalities (now and at birth) of:

Father: English William Robert AMIS. Formerly: (above address) 1943: 26, Shrublands Road, Berkhamsted, Herts.	Wife or husband: (and date of marriage)
---	---

Mother: English R.A. AMIS.	Next of kin: Father. (if different with relationship)
-------------------------------	---
10. Education:

City of London School.	Sept: 1934 - March 1941.
St. John's Coll. Oxford.	April: 1941 -
11. Other items of interest:

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ACT 1958 JANUARY 2016

CP

P.T.O.

23/12/44

Service Particulars:**Personal**

12. ~~XXXX~~ number: 267359 (Army No: previously - 6477599)
13. Present rank: Lieut.
14. Regiment or Corps: R. Signals.
15. Enlistment (if deferred, date of call-up): 6.6.41. Embodied: 10.7.42.
16. Previous service: J.T.C. 1936-1941.
S.T.C. Ox. University from 1941.
17. Decorations: nil
18. Disciplinary offences:

19. Postings: (first, last, embarkations and disembarkations)

6.6.41. Attested. Royal Fusiliers.
Relegated Class W (T) Reserve.

10.7.42. Embodied. 1st Sig. T.C.

26.7.42. Posted 152 O.C.T.U. R. Signals. (From A.F.B. 200b.)

21.9.42. Joined 150 O.C.T.U. R. Signals. (From A.F. B. 2616.)

16.3.43. Commissioned. 2/Lt. R. Signals.
Posted to 3 Command Signals.

No further postings shown.

*Now 91 TD Section
R. Sigs. 4th Army Reserve
B.A. 7th Div*

IF COMMISSIONED ALSO: —

20. Date of O.C.T.U. 26.7.42.
21. Choice of Units: Royal Signals.
Infantry.
Royal Engineers.
22. Posting on Commission: 16.3.43. 2/Lt. 3 Command Signals.
23. Type of Commission: Emergency Commission:
24. References: F.R. DALE, Headmaster, City of London School,
c/o Marlborough College.

Report by Dean of St. John's Coll: A pleasant man though a little lacking in vigour. His work is good; he is industrious and obtained distinction in one examination. He is very interested in politics and perhaps has devoted too much time to them.

25. O.C.T.U. Reports: Commandant's remarks.

Young cadet with little Army experience. Very keen and cheerful and possess a mind of his own. His powers of leadership and command have much improved and he only wants practical experience in a field unit to become a good officer. In my opinion he should not be sent to an Advanced Wireless Course until he has served for at least 3 months in a field unit.

14.3.43.

*RECEIVED
14.3.43
HEADMASTER
CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL
C/O MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE*

26. Date papers extracted and returned: 9.11.44./

W.S. F2a.

3A

R. Signals.

F.2a/GEN/JBM

L/Cpl. E.A. WAGSTAFF.

2348213.

M.1.5.

Room 055,

Officer i/c R. Signals Records,
Caversham,
Reading.

5th November,

4

army papers

~~9/5~~

SKIPPED
17/12

93,244/F.2a/JEM.

2A

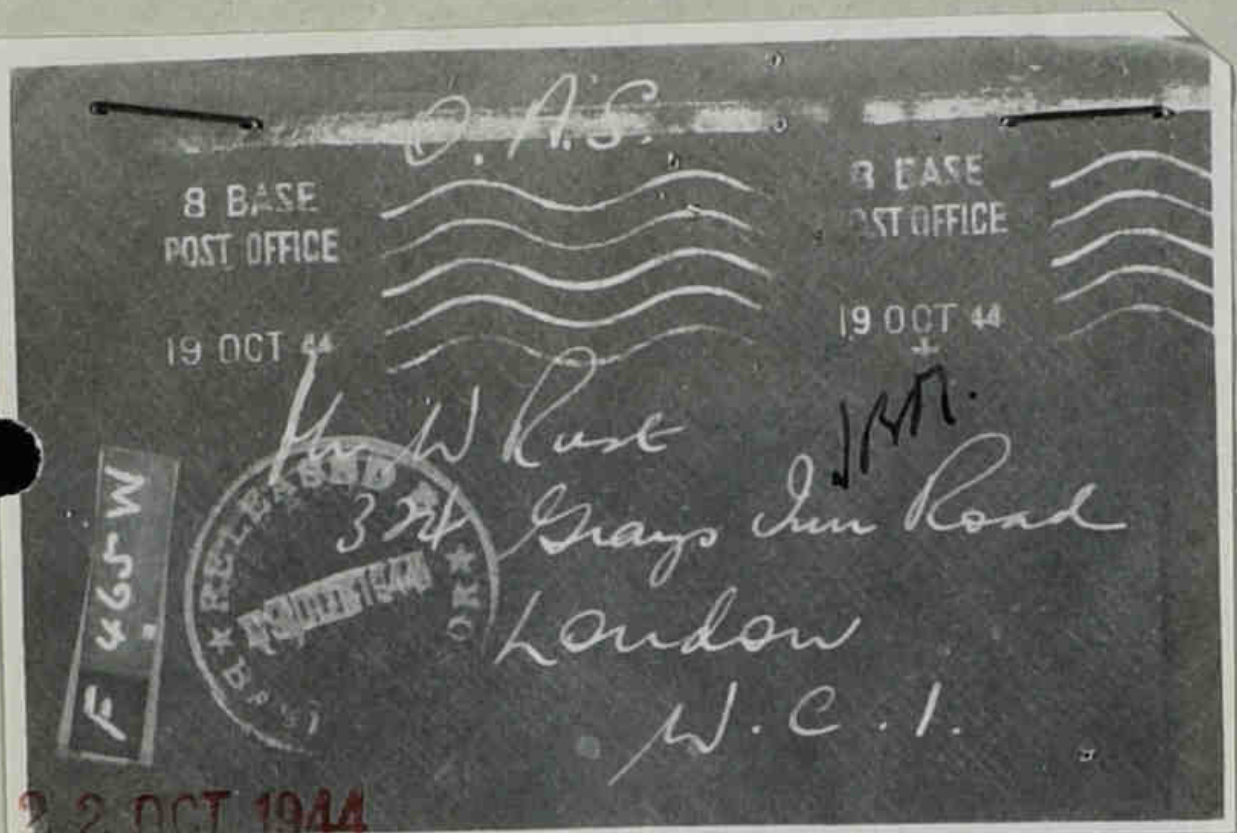
Miss Bowlby,
R.l. London.

✓ May we please see the Personal Papers of Lieut.
Kingsley William AMIS, Royal Signals.

F.2a/JEM.
5.11.44.

~~1988~~
SK/F-20
17/12

11A



free and for force scheme a
regular copy to:-

LT. K.W. AMIS
91 T.O. Section
ROYAL SIGNALS
H.Q. SECOND ARMY REAR
B.L.A.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully
Alwayde

F 465 W

~~1948~~

SK 1720
17/12

HISTORY SHEET No......H.S. 293,244. 12

N.B.—No action to be taken
without reference to

Name AMIS Kingsley William.

PF. No.....
(PF. not yet made)

Alias.....

THE FOLLOWING TRACES ALSO REFER:

Handwriting Specimen filed.....

PERSONAL PARTICULARS.

National Reg. No.:

Birthplace:

Date of Birth: 16.4.22.

Occupation: Undergraduate.

Passport No.:

Height:

Hair:

Eyes:

Complexion:

Build:

ADDRESSES.

Date

Source of
Information.

Home add:-

17.7.42.

P.D.H.

3, Highfield Road, Berkhamstead, Herts.

C.C.Oxford.

Ref.AR/J

17.7.42.

211,956. 3a.

DATEACTIVITIESS.I.

27.4.42. Kingsley AMIS was mentioned in an intercepted
P.D.H. letter from Val WALKER, 7, Glisson Road. Cambridge,
to Ernie KEELING, The Bookshop, Hythe Bridge Rd,
Oxford. AMIS is reported as being a very
promising new member of the Oxford branch of the
Communist Party, keen to break down the Oxford
sectarianism both in relation to the student
movement and the Party, and is already on good
terms with the local Y.C.L.

Int.let
WALKER
KEELING
201,803
27.4.42

17.7.42. Kingsley William AMIS, National Registration
P.D.H. Number YDXA/473545, matriculated to St John's
College Oxford, from the City of London school
on 3rd May 1941. He is the only son of William
Robert AMIS, an export clerk of 3, Highfield
Road, Berkhamstead, Herts., and has not come
to the notice of the Oxford Police in connection
with Communism before.

C.C.Ox
Ref.A
17.7.4
1.95